

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the amendment that Senator Beutler and I have cosponsored is one which we reached individually and I guess we both saw the same problem with the same bill and that was the concern that this bill provides for a car, a state car for constitutional officers. Originally the bill had provided that car on a twenty-four hour basis as they saw fit and needed. The committee amendments did indeed tighten that up and I think that Senator Kahle and the committee should be commended for that. Nevertheless, in terms of further research my office contacted the Transportation Service Bureau and found that, in fact, they already were being served by that bureau, that they were already able to get a car if they needed to. The Auditor's office even was assigned fifteen cars that they felt were necessary to carry out the functions of their office and, in fact, were able to get the necessary transportation that they needed if they wanted to apply to the Bureau to get it. Now there seems to me no need whatsoever at this point to put into law that they have a special classification and have direct access to a state owned car. Whether or not, these are supposedly using it for state business, I don't think that they need to have that special privilege. I think we have seen in Washington, D.C., you have probably seen recent articles about the chauffeur driven limousines for our top diplomats and officials in Washington and I get angry when I hear that sort of thing and then to see in this bill, not nearly as extensive of a provision of a perq. but, nevertheless, provision of a state owned car to these individuals does not seem necessary in the least. So with the research, I think that what you can say is that we do not need that provision and we do not need to grant them that special status, that they can if they want to apply to the Bureau and get a car when necessary, just like we do. You know, the way we get our state transportation is if we have a hearing or some sort of state function we have to attend we go and we apply to the Bureau and ask for a car if possible and then we get granted the car if we can justify it and we take the car and we drive to where we need to and that way there is a check and balance and clearly, in the terms of state business and necessary use of a state vehicle. Also you know about the reimbursement that we have if we use our own car but to grant a special status to the constitutional officers and give them their own car, I think is going too far and so I would ask your support of the Beutler-Wesely amendment to the bill and strike that provision.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Higgins, did you want to talk to the amendment to the committee amendments?